Development of Thiruvananthapuram Airport

1600. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land acquired for the development of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport so far and whether the area acquired is sufficient for the proposed development including the construction of new terminal;

(b) whether Government propose to acquire land required for the development of Thiruvananthapuram Airport on market rate; and

(c) the details of airports in Kerala which are levying user's fee for the international flights and whether Government would consider to discontinue the user's fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) 27 acres of land required for first phase of development of international passenger terminal with apron, city side facility and other necessary infrastructure has already been acquired.

(b) Land is being acquired by the State Government which is being handed over to Airports Authority of India free of cost.

(c) Airports Authority of India is not levying user's fee at its airports. However, Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), an airport established under public private partnership at its own level and without approval of the Central Government has levied user's fee at the rate of Rs. 500/- per passenger, from the international departing passengers only. The matter is being taken up with CIAL management.

New Airport in Punjab

1601. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct an airport at Phillaur (Punjab) in view of massive movement to and from the Doaba Region;

(b) whether the State Government of Punjab has taken up the matter with Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No reference from the State Government on Phillaur (Punjab) airport is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Progress in privatisation of Airports

1602. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government support privatisation of airports;

(b) if so, what is the further progress Government have made in this matter so far;

(c) if not, in what manner Government would make its airports services at par with the global competition; and

(d) the number of airports in which Government are going to introduce privatisation with the details thereof and what is the position of those as on now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Government of India having recognized the urgent need to modernize and upgrade the airport infrastructure promulgated the Policy on Airport Infrastructure, 1997 which taking into account that the airport infrastructure is a capital intensive sector and requires a long term planning, envisages public and private partnership in this regard. A new Greenfield international airport at Kochi, Kerala under Public Private Partnership (PPP) was commissioned in 1999. Government of India has already entered into Concession Agreements with the project companies of two Greenfield airports at Devanhalli near Bangalore and Shamshabad near Hyderabad. The project company for Devanhalli Airport, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), has already executed the relevant project agreements and the Financial Closure has been achieved by it on 23rd June, 2005. As per the Concession Agreement entered by Government of India with BIAL, the new airport at Devanhalli is required to be completed within 33 months from the date of Financial Close.